

Application No. 09/872,054
Amendment Dated March 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 13, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, and 19 have been amended. No new claims have been added. No claims have been canceled. Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Abstract

The Examiner reminded Applicants of the proper language and format for an abstract of the Disclosure, i.e., within the range of 50 to 150 words. Applicants have amended the Abstract to be less than 150 words.

Informality Objections to Claims 2, 3, 11, and 12

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 because of the following informalities: "comprising the step of.", and the Examiner required appropriate correction. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 making appropriate corrections so that it now reads: comprising the step of:". Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to claims 2, 3, 11, and 12.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as

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allegedly being anticipated by *Helgeson et al.*, U.S. patent 6,643,652. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention provides an extensible file access method for accessing a foreign file system from a data processing system with a native file system, said foreign file system and said native file system implementing different file system protocols, by issuing a request according to the native file system protocol for data stored in the foreign file system; translating the native file system request to an intermediate programming interface, wherein the intermediate programming interface is different from both the native file system protocol and the foreign file system protocol; translating the intermediate file system request to the foreign file system protocol; and returning to the data processing system a response from the foreign file system responsive to the translated request.

Helgeson et al. provides a translation of a data object from a foreign system format to a native system format, said foreign system format and said native system format being different, by

issuing a request from the foreign system according to a foreign system programming interface for the data object stored in the foreign system format;

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translating the data object from the foreign system format to a generic interchange format, wherein the generic interchange format is different from both the native system format and the foreign system format;

translating the data object from the generic interchange format to the native system format; and

sending the translated data object in the native system format to the data processing system in response to the foreign system request.

The present invention translates or converts from one protocol to another, or from one programming interface to another; whereas, *Helgeson et al.* translates from one data format to another. The present invention translates or converts a program call; whereas, *Helgeson et al.* translates data. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 1-3, 10-12, and 19-21.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27

The Examiner rejected claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Helgeson et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,643,652, in view of *Bodamer et al.*, U.S. Patent 6,236,997. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending

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therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). As independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are nonobvious as they are not subject to 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections, then the dependent claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27 depending from independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are nonobvious. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 4-9, 13-18, and 22-27.

Prior Art Made of Record and Not Relied Upon

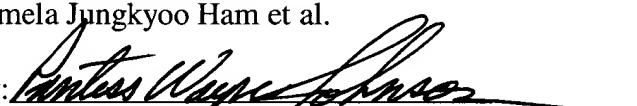
Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure, and these fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

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Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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